



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Inyo National Forest
Supervisor's Office

351 Pacu Lane
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Bishop, CA 93514
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FAX: 760-873-2538

File Code: 2720;1950
Date: July 5, 2017

Dear Interested Party,

The Inyo National Forest is seeking comments on a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) that analyzes the Mammoth Base Land Exchange. Under the Proposed Action, the United States would convey approximately 35.6 acres of National Forest System lands within the boundaries of the Inyo National Forest, and currently managed as part of a Ski Area Term Special Use Permit to Mammoth Main Lodge Redevelopment, LLC. In exchange, Mammoth Main Lodge Redevelopment, LLC would convey to the United States approximately 1,296.7 acres of privately owned lands (“inholdings”) located within the boundaries of the Inyo, Plumas and Stanislaus National Forests and one small parcel (approximately 1.4 acres) in Inyo County, California that is outside the boundaries of the Inyo National Forest.

The Draft EIS analyzes two alternatives (Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative and Alternative 2 – The Proposed Action). Additional public input will help guide the decision making process for this project. At this time, I am evaluating the benefits of the proposed transfer of lands against the identified resource impacts these alternatives may create. A decision will be made after considering information contained within the analysis, and public comments.

Comments on the Draft EIS will be accepted for 45 days from publication of the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register. The anticipated date of publication of the NOA is July 7, 2017. The NOA provides the sole means of calculating the close of the Draft EIS comment period. The entire Draft EIS is available for review on the Inyo National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=30428>. A comment form is included on the website, which allows the public to submit comments on the Draft EIS electronically. Hardcopies may be reviewed at the Inyo National Forest Supervisor's Office in Bishop and the Mammoth Ranger District. CDs of the Draft EIS are available upon request.

Comments may be submitted to Ed Armenta, Forest Supervisor, c/o Janelle Walker, Winter Sports Specialist, Inyo National Forest, PO Box 148, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546, FAX; (760) 924-5537 or by email to: janellewalker@fs.fed.us (please include “Mammoth Base Land Exchange EIS” in the subject line). As previously mentioned, comments can be submitted on the project website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.html?project=30428>. Comments may also be submitted by hand-delivery to 351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200, Bishop, CA 93514, during normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8:00am to 4:30pm).

To be most effective when submitting comments, please include: (1) name, address, email address, and organization represented, if any; (2) the title of the project for which the comment is being submitted; and (3) specific facts, concerns or issues, and supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider.



Only those who submit timely and specific written comments will have eligibility to file an objection under 36 CFR §218.8. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. A scanned signature may serve as verification on electronic comments. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements in 36 CFR §218.25(a)(3). Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the public record for this project and will be subject to review pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act.

The Inyo National Forest will hold a public meeting on **July 31, 2017 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm** at The Mammoth Lakes Council Chamber, Suite Z, 437 Old Mammoth Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA (above the Vons) to provide an overview of the Draft EIS and to answer questions from the public. Comments may also be submitted during the public meeting.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this important project. For additional information concerning the Draft EIS, contact: Janelle Walker, Project Leader, janellewalker@fs.fed.us, (760) 924-5523.

Sincerely,

/s/ Edward E. Armenta

EDWARD E. ARMENTA
Forest Supervisor

